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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2007/25 of 26 July 2007, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 62/114 of 17 December 2007, the General Assembly requested that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on the question, and requested it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. Information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations on their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information provided by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations, a number of the specialized agencies and organizations have continued, during the period under review, to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have given support using their own budgetary resources in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of support.

5. A number of assistance projects have continued to receive funding from UNDP and are carried out in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

A. United Nations Population Fund

6. The UNFPA Caribbean Office provides support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. The UNFPA Pacific Office supports Tokelau in the area of reproductive health.

7. The support provided by the UNFPA Caribbean Office is primarily in the area of HIV/AIDS and the 2010 census through training that benefits Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. In support of the national efforts to respond to the HIV situation in the Caribbean, officials from Territories' national AIDS programmes attended a subregional workshop, organized by UNFPA and the Ministry of Health of the British Virgin Islands in November 2007, on condom programming, with special emphasis on the use of female condoms. The national AIDS programmes of participating Territories not only benefited from the training but also received supplies (pelvic models, other tools and female condoms) to facilitate implementation of a more structured condom programme in their respective Territories. Ongoing collaboration with the Territories continues to provide technical support and capacity-building in the area of sexual and reproductive health. The British Virgin Islands also benefited from capacity-building in this area in respect of proposal writing.

8. In the case of Montserrat, UNFPA also provided assistance in the following areas: review and updating of the 2006 demographic study; development of population policy; capacity-building for population projections; and the Millennium Development Goals localization process.

9. At the request of the Development Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Trade, the 2006 demographic study was revised and recommendations were made to extend and update the study and to strengthen the position of the Development Unit with a view to: (a) ensuring intersectorality in the study by engaging the sectors and by collecting intersectoral information; (b) organizing teams to generate synergies among sector policies; and (c) designing a population policy to be integrated into a comprehensive sustainable development plan for 2008-2012.

10. UNFPA also provided assistance to Montserrat's Development Unit with respect to reviewing and achieving agreement with the Territory's stakeholders on the process, content and approaches required with respect to developing a population policy and population action plan. Some of the proposed elements for the population policy include: (a) adopting gender and human rights perspectives; (b) taking a life-cycle perspective; (c) giving special consideration to the ageing process, reproductive health and access to health generally, as well as migration.

11. Various proposals and recommendations made regarding the Territory's population policy were integrated into Montserrat's sustainable development plan for 2008.

12. UNFPA also provided to the Territory's Statistics Department with technical assistance in conducting the necessary population projections based on available data and assumptions.

13. In 2007-2008, UNFPA provided technical support to Montserrat's Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Trade regarding gender sensitization of the Millennium Development Goals localization process in Montserrat. The overall objective was to use the Millennium Development Goals as the main framework for local development with a gender perspective. This technical assistance included refining a work plan for the implementation of the localization process.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

14. The work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the development challenges faced by small island developing States is relevant to most Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Organization's assistance to those States has focused principally on support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, rural development, forestry, fisheries and food security. FAO support is facilitated by its field offices, including the Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, located in Samoa.

15. Within this framework, Territories are invited to FAO subregional workshops and other relevant FAO meetings, for example, in the area of fisheries. In the framework of the forest resources assessment, FAO prepares reliable information on the forest resources of the relevant Territories. Under the International Network of Food Data Systems, FAO conducted food composition-related activities in New Caledonia. FAO is also supporting the Global Environment Facility within the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability programme framework and Pacific island countries in the preparation of project proposals concerning biological diversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

16. In the area of early warning, the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System is contributing to the preparation of the Caribbean regional programme for food security.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

17. Three Non-Self-Governing Territories, namely, the British Virgin Islands (1983), the Cayman Islands (1999) and Tokelau (2001), have the status of associate membership in UNESCO. A consultation process has started with Bermuda which has recently expressed an interest in acceding to associate membership in UNESCO. UNESCO takes advantage of every opportunity to engage with Non-Self-Governing Territories in any platform of action, information or cooperation that has been established, or any capacity-building activity organized at the regional, subregional or national level.

18. Activities in the fields of education, culture and natural sciences are described below:

Activities in the field of education

19. In October 2007, UNESCO launched a two-year project designed to build the capacity of Caribbean ministries of education to use statistics for evidence-based policymaking so as to achieve increased quality education. The project on Capacity-building for Education Statistics in the Caribbean is supported by the Japanese Funds-In-Trust and targets Caribbean member States and associate member States of UNESCO, including the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands. The project aims at providing technical support to beneficiary countries in improving capacities for data collection, processing and analysis with a view to promoting evidence-informed policymaking at both the national and the regional level so as to ensure the achievement of the international and regional goals of Education for All and those

goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[1] Within the framework of this project, a regional training workshop was organized in Barbados on 26 and 27 February 2008 which included statisticians and education planners from 16 Caribbean countries, as well as from the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands. The workshop aimed at improving the quality of education data at the national level and at initiating a regional process geared towards the production of an Education for All monitoring report for the Caribbean.

20. Schools in the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands have recently joined the UNESCO Sandwatch initiative, which seeks to engage young people in activities aimed at monitoring and preserving their fragile beaches and coastal environment. The project, which is implemented within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, contributes to strengthening science education in schools, particularly through the promotion of enquiry-based approaches to learning. The initiative includes advocacy campaigns on environmental education which are driven by young people at community level.

21. Within the framework of a UNESCO/Caribbean Community (CARICOM) initiative aimed at enhancing science, innovation and technology education in primary schools, a regional conference was organized in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from 27 to 29 November 2007 which included the participation of Anguilla, the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. The conference contributed to the formulation of a regional action plan on science, innovation and technology education at the primary school level.

22. Further, UNESCO, in partnership with the Ministry of Education of Jamaica, hosted a Caribbean symposium on inclusive education in Kingston from 5 to 7 December 2007. Policymakers, educators and curriculum specialists from countries across the region, as well as from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands, discussed different aspects of inclusive education from a national and regional perspective and formulated a road map on inclusive education for the Caribbean designed to inform future interventions at policy and programme levels. This conference has provided substantive inputs from the Caribbean region to the International Conference on Education to be held in Geneva in November 2008, whose theme will be "Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future".

23. For its part, Anguilla participates in the Caribbean Network of Education Sector HIV and AIDS coordinators (Educan), a UNESCO-sponsored initiative that institutionalizes experience-sharing and collaboration among Caribbean ministries of education on issues related to HIV and AIDS.

Activities in the field of culture

24. UNESCO and Bermuda sponsored the African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) which is a unified cross-border cultural tourism initiative aimed at educating visitors and enhancing the economic viability of African diaspora countries. The ADHT Conference is a platform for forging long-term cooperation among the Caribbean, African nations, North America and South America. The 2007 Conference, entitled "From Slave Ship to Self-Determined Destinations", aimed at achieving a careful and thoughtful development of heritage destinations

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

conveying the rich and diverse stories of the peoples of Africa and the diaspora through their own artistic expressions, written and oral histories, institution-building and policymaking. Sponsors of this event included, inter alia, the Governments of Bermuda and the Bahamas, UNESCO through its Slave Route Project, the World Tourism Organization and the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

25. The British Virgin Islands is among the 14 Caribbean countries and areas where UNESCO is implementing the Youth Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage (Youth PATH) project in 2008 and 2009. Included among the main activities of the Youth PATH project are (a) training and capacity-building among young people in areas such as preserving cultural and natural heritage sites, creating and expanding cultural industries, heritage tourism, tour-guiding, entrepreneurship, use of information and communication technologies in heritage documentation and tourism,/ life skills development, and processing and dissemination of heritage tourism information in member States and (b) strengthening the capacities within project countries to integrate youth participation into the management and preservation of natural and cultural heritage tourism sites.

26. One expert from the British Virgin Islands and one from the Cayman Islands participated in the subregional seminar organized by UNESCO on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)[2] held in Castries, Saint Lucia, on 27 and 28 March 2008. The dual purpose of the seminar was to (a) encourage countries in the eastern Caribbean to work together towards ratification of the 2001 Convention and (b) to draw up a proposal designed to encourage all countries in the subregion and other Caribbean countries to join them in this process. The 12 participants in the meeting drew up a plan of action on how to encourage more member States in the eastern Caribbean to ratify the Convention.

Activities in the field of the natural sciences

27. In Guam, regional and subregional courses on sustainable waste-water management practices were held in June 2006. These training courses were jointly developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[3] the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the UNESCO Institute for Water Education.

28. Launched in 2002, Small Islands Voice (www.smallislandsvoice.org) is a cross-cutting project involving small islands in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Small Islands Voice has focused on sustainable living and development activities at the local level through "Communities in Action" and on the sharing of these experiences interregionally via exchanges and the media: print, radio, video, television and the Internet. Small Islands Voice Global Internet Forum provides members of the general public living on islands with "a space to speak", where they can share problems and propose solutions, put forward controversial views without fears of retribution and, most of all, learn from people on islands other than their own. Every two weeks, from 2002 to December 2007, people on islands, people in the diaspora and other people concerned with island affairs shared

[2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, resolution 24, annex.

[3] A/51/116, annex II.

their experiences on issues spanning environment, development, society, economy and culture.

29. The United States Virgin Islands belongs to the University Consortium of Small Island States. Launched in 2005, within the framework of the plenary meetings held at the high-level segment of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005, the Consortium is a mechanism through which tertiary institutions in small island developing States can pool resources and thereby improve their collective efforts towards fostering capacity development for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1994).[4]

30. UNESCO provides support for the promotion of sustainable energy in Pacific island countries as well as Tokelau that focuses on training and research in engineering, science and technology, in particular renewable energy applications and appropriate community technology. Joint activities with UNDP during recent years have involved cooperation with a range of national bodies and regional organizations. Activities include support for the provision of grid-connected solar energy for the island of Fakaofo in Tokelau.

31. UNESCO, in cooperation with the Caribbean Development Bank, governmental agencies and non-governmental bodies, has published a series of illustrated full-colour booklets on shoreline change in Anguilla, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. The booklets are available online at the following Internet website: http://www.unesco.org/csi/wise2b.htm.

D. World Health Organization

32. The World Health Organization (WHO) carries out activities in American Samoa, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, New Caledonia, St. Helena and Tokelau through its regional offices in the Caribbean and the western Pacific, as follows:

American Samoa

33. Collaborative activities in the form of technical cooperation between the Government of American Samoa and WHO have focused for the last few years mainly on human resources development (fellowships), non-communicable diseases and health promotion.

Bermuda

34. Based on the Territory's health needs and the Millennium Development Goals, the principal activities of the Pan American Health Organization have focused on the following main issues: (a) non-communicable diseases; (b) essential public-health functions; (c) epidemiological surveillance; (d) environmental health; and (e) HIV/AIDS.

[4] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Cayman Islands

35. Based on the Territory's health needs and the Millennium Development Goals, the principal activities of the Pan American Health Organization are focused on the following main issues: (a) non-communicable diseases; (b) health information systems; (c) sustainable development and environmental health; (d) vaccines/immunization; (e) quality assurance of health services; (f) oral health; and (g) HIV/AIDS.

New Caledonia

36. WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community are the main development partners in the Territory's health sector.

37. Participants from New Caledonia have attended WHO regional and subregional meetings, workshops and conferences, including the second rheumatic heart disease control workshop in Pacific island countries (February 2008), the WHO meetings on injury and violence prevention for the Pacific (2007), health promoting schools, and the International Health Regulations (2005), and many others. Another important area of collaboration is communicable diseases prevention and control.

38. The representatives of New Caledonia participate regularly in the activities of the governing bodies of WHO.

St. Helena

39. WHO supports St. Helena through replacement of equipment in the health sector and assists in building the capacity of health workers in the Territory. It is expected that WHO will allocate up to $150,000 in 2008-2009 for these activities.

Tokelau

40. Technical cooperation between the Government of Tokelau and WHO has focused for the last few years mainly on human resources development (fellowships); health system strengthening; non-communicable diseases; health promotion; health information; food safety; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections; tobacco control; and environmental health.

E. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

Support provided by the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat

(a) Review of the St. George's Declaration

41. Montserrat is a member, and Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are associate members, of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States sets out the broad framework to be pursued for environmental management in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States region. The Declaration, which had been signed by the Ministers of the Environment of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States at St. George's,

Grenada, in April 2001, was revised in 2006. Copies of the revised version were distributed to the three Territories. Additionally, a communication plan has been developed to support and guide regional- and national-level activities aimed at enhancing environmental management in these Territories and the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States through implementation of the revised St. George's Declaration by key stakeholders in the public sector and staff in the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Pursuant to this, a number of communications products have been proposed, including a "workshop" (or "popular") version, to be used to familiarize stakeholders with the revised Declaration in a workshop setting. The workshop version has been printed and distributed.

(b) St. George's Declaration-related monitoring and reporting

42. A draft reporting instrument has been finalized based on a series of national workshops on St. George's Declaration-related reporting, coupled with a regional workshop held late in the current reporting period. "Finalized" national St. George's Declaration reports have been received from Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

43. The regional workshop held in January 2008 as well as the national workshops held in member States provided further support to member States in the preparation of national reports. The purpose of the workshops was to:

- Foster increased understanding of the St. George's Declaration among technical natural resources managers and enable them to use it as a tool for improved environmental management
- Build awareness and appreciation of the St. George's Declaration within ministries and public sector agencies dealing with related or critical supporting areas

(c) Disaster response and risk reduction

44. UNDP in Barbados awarded a grant of US$ 400,000 to the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States for the implementation of community risk reduction measures. The Disaster Programme of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat targeted, in the first instance, the British Virgin Islands and a State member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States for the implementation of pilot community-based projects. The activities of this component are focused on communities and households that are vulnerable to natural hazards such as landslides and floods.

45. UNDP has assisted the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in focusing on building capabilities in communities for landslide risk reduction that utilizes low-cost methods. In the British Virgin Islands, the purpose of the project is to reduce the landslide and flooding risks in the ghetto area/crab lot community. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States has allotted the sum of US$ 145,000 to assist in providing a set of construction implementation interventions related to *ghut* (gully) sidewall elevations and sediment traps, modelling of water flows on slopes and within channels, and engaging key stakeholders so as to ensure ownership of the intervention.

46. The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States executed service contracts in member States totalling 1,949,811 Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC$) for the period 2006-2007, compared with EC$ 763,634 for the previous fiscal year period. The distribution of these expenditures to Non-Self-Governing Territories by member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States was as follows: EC$ 208,996.21 to Anguilla, EC$ 416,353.76 to the British Virgin Islands and EC$ 27,836.76 to Montserrat.

(d) Institutional strengthening of environmental management

47. In 2004, the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, through its Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, provided technical assistance to the Government of Montserrat through the conduct of a strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis with senior Government officials. This facilitated the formulation of a set of recommendations on the requirements for improved management of sustainable development in the context of general and environmental concerns.

(e) Small grants facility

48. Through its small grants facility, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States supported community-based medium-sized ecotourism projects: the Big Spring Heritage Tourism and East End Pond conservation projects in Anguilla and the Piper's Pond conservation project in Montserrat. The cost of the investments in Anguilla and Montserrat was approximately EC$ 300,000/US$ 111,211.

(f) National focal point meetings

49. The Social Policy Unit of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat convenes an annual national focal point meeting, in which Anguilla and Montserrat participate. Designated national focal points have an opportunity to meet to discuss the annual work programme of the Social Policy Unit and obtain an indication of where they add value to the work programme.

(g) Organization of Eastern Caribbean States youth initiative

50. The Non-Self-Governing Territories members were included in a series of island youth rap sessions as part of the preliminary activities leading up to the identification of an Organization of Eastern Caribbean States youth initiative.

(h) Localization of the Millennium Development Goals

51. The British Virgin Islands are benefiting directly from a process of localization of the Millennium Development Goals. This process allows the British Virgin Islands to examine:

(a) Existing programmes/projects/activities to determine how they impact the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) What has been achieved to date;

(c) What needs to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

(d) How to integrate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals into the existing national planning and programmes/projects/activities.

(i) Implementation of the Labour Market Programme of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

52. Certain components of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Labour Market Programme, such as labour-market information systems and the memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the International Labour Organization, are currently implemented by the Non-Self-Governing Territories members.

(j) Statistics Project of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

53. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat are involved in the Statistics Project of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which is aimed at improving statistical systems, including statistics on tourism, throughout the region. The Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States is undertaking a series of tourism fact-finding missions extending throughout the member countries to ascertain the current state of tourism statistics. Emphasis is being placed on yachting data.

F. International Maritime Organization

54. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) does not have a special technical assistance programme for Non-Self-Governing Territories. Nevertheless, when IMO had in the past organized training events that might have been of interest to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, they were invited to participate. However, according to the Rules of Operation of the Technical Cooperation Fund, which is aimed at the developing countries, no financial support is provided by IMO to the participating Territories.

G. Additional replies

55. The following organizations also replied, indicating that at the present time they were not carrying out any assistance programmes in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Monetary Fund and the Association of Caribbean States.